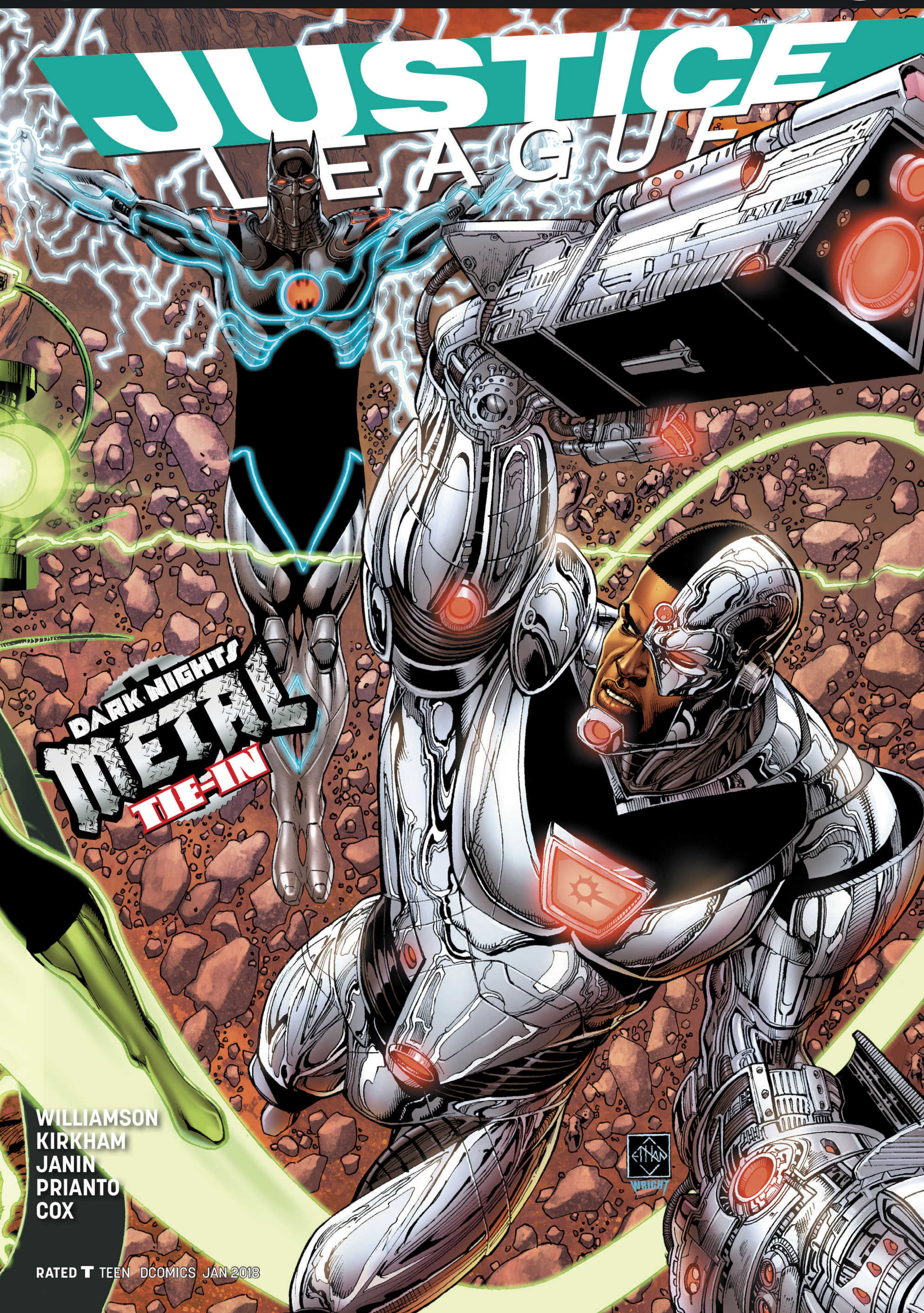




JUSTICE LEAGUE



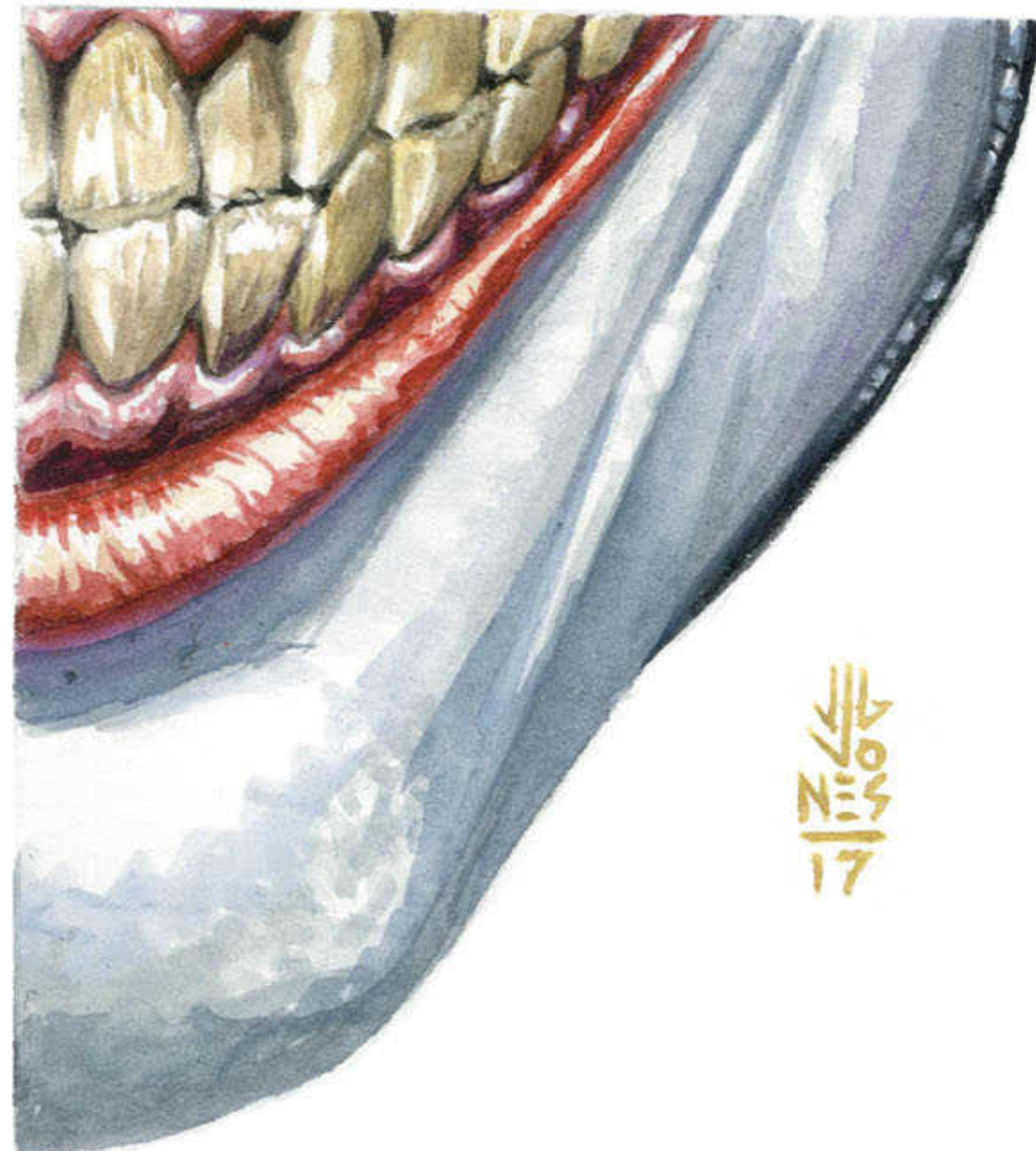
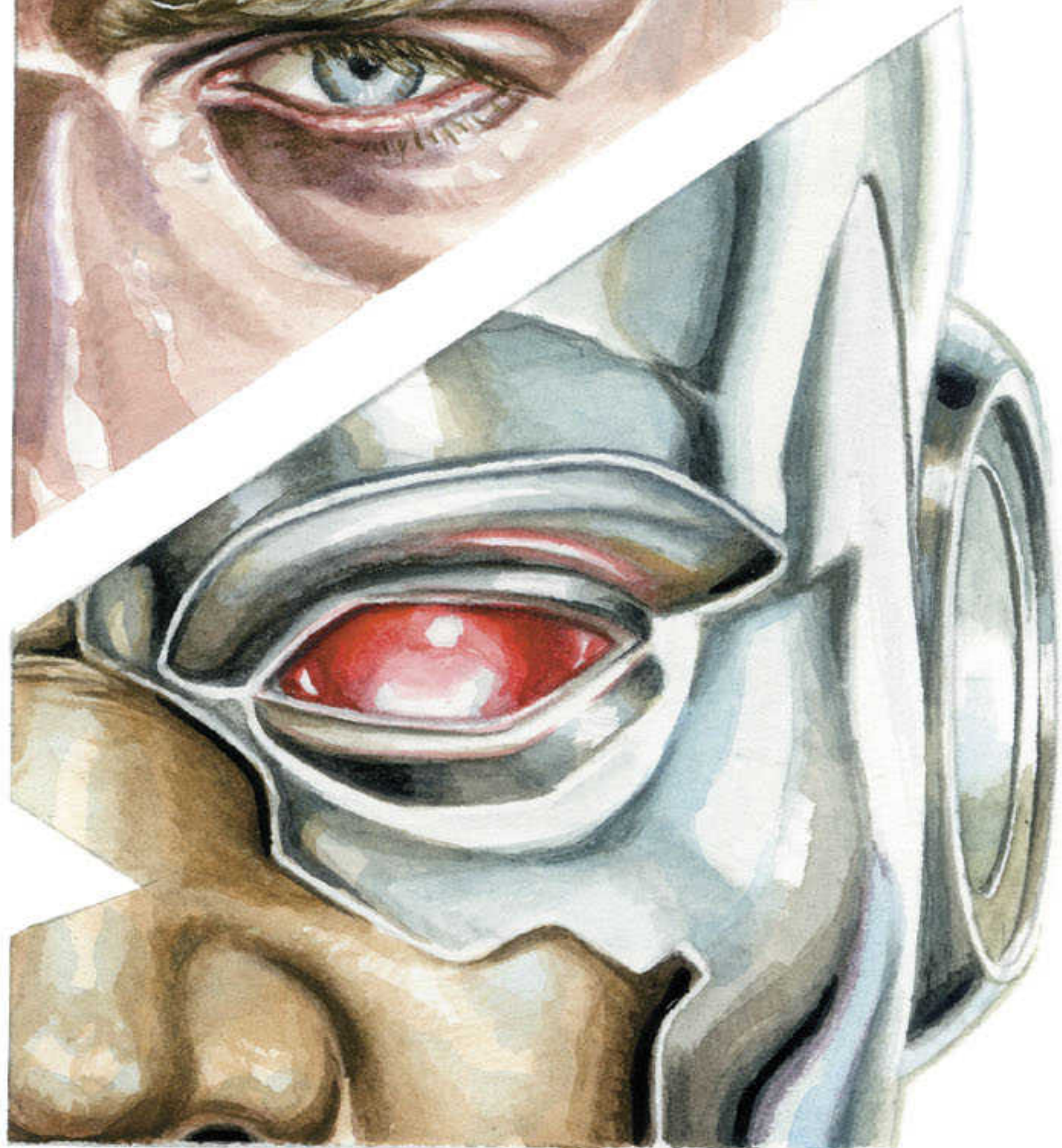
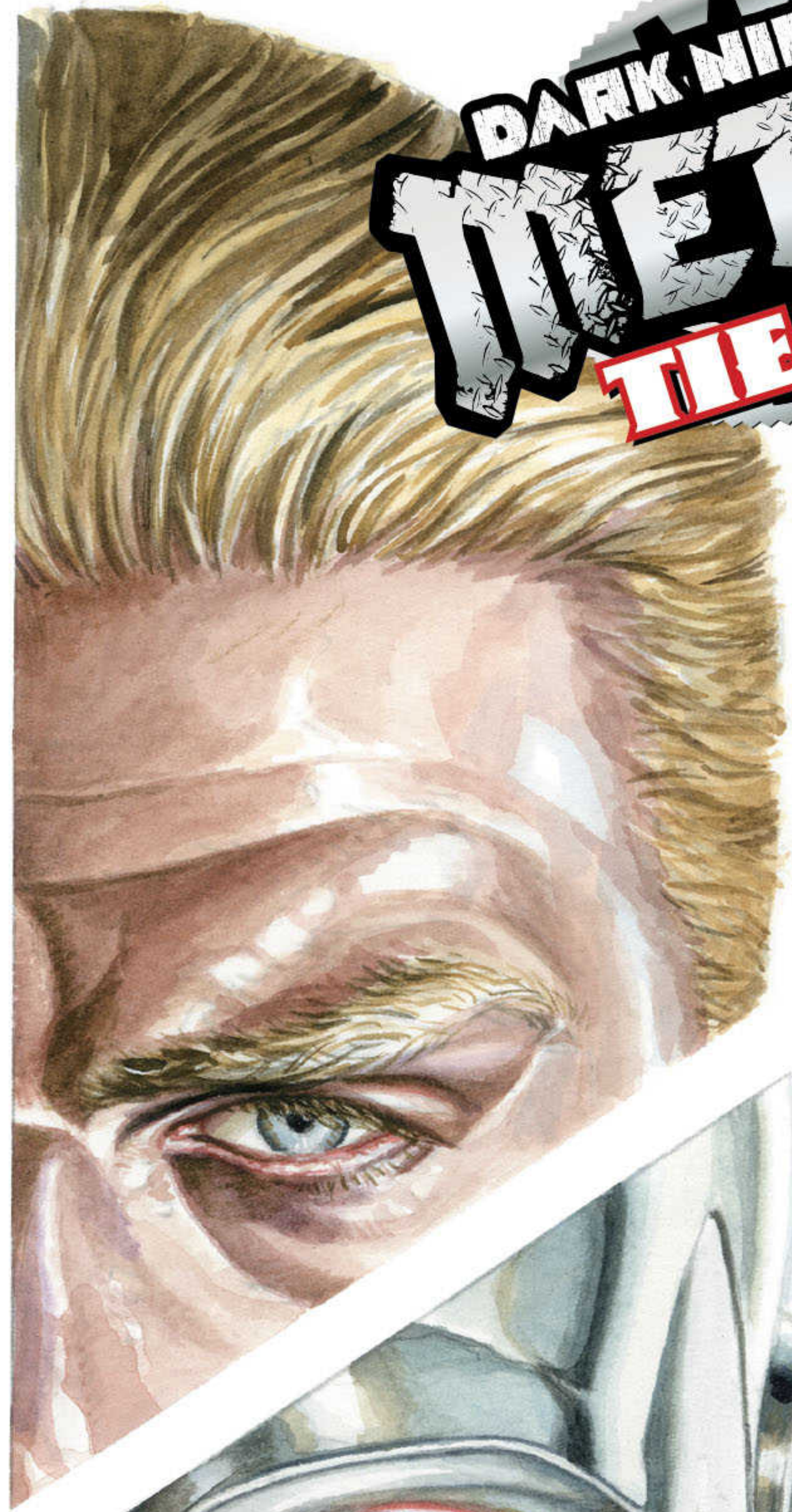
DARK KNIGHTS
RETURN
TEEN

WILLIAMSON
KIRKHAM
JANIN
PRIANTO
COX



JUSTICE LEAGUE™

DARK KNIGHTS
THE FALL
TEEN



IN THEATERS
11/17/2017

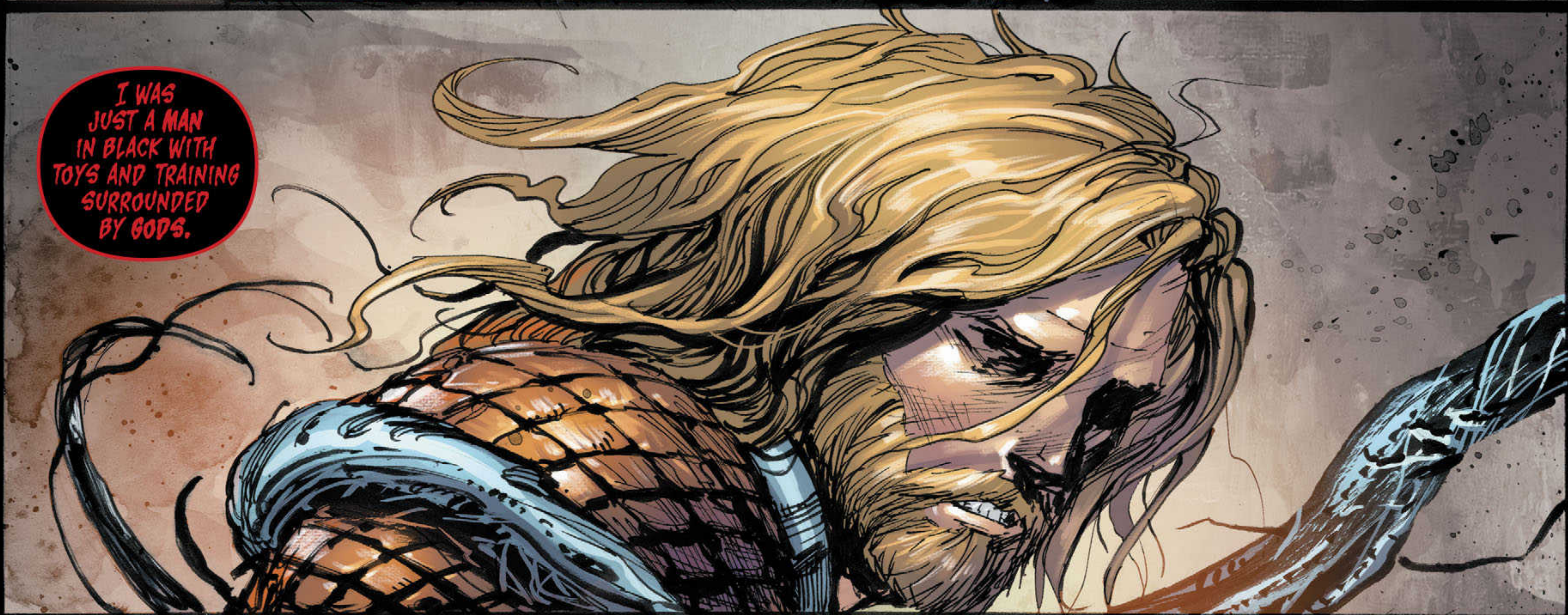
Nov
17

WILLIAMSON
KIRKHAM
JANIN
PRIANTO
COX

RATED **T** TEEN DCCOMICS JAN 2018



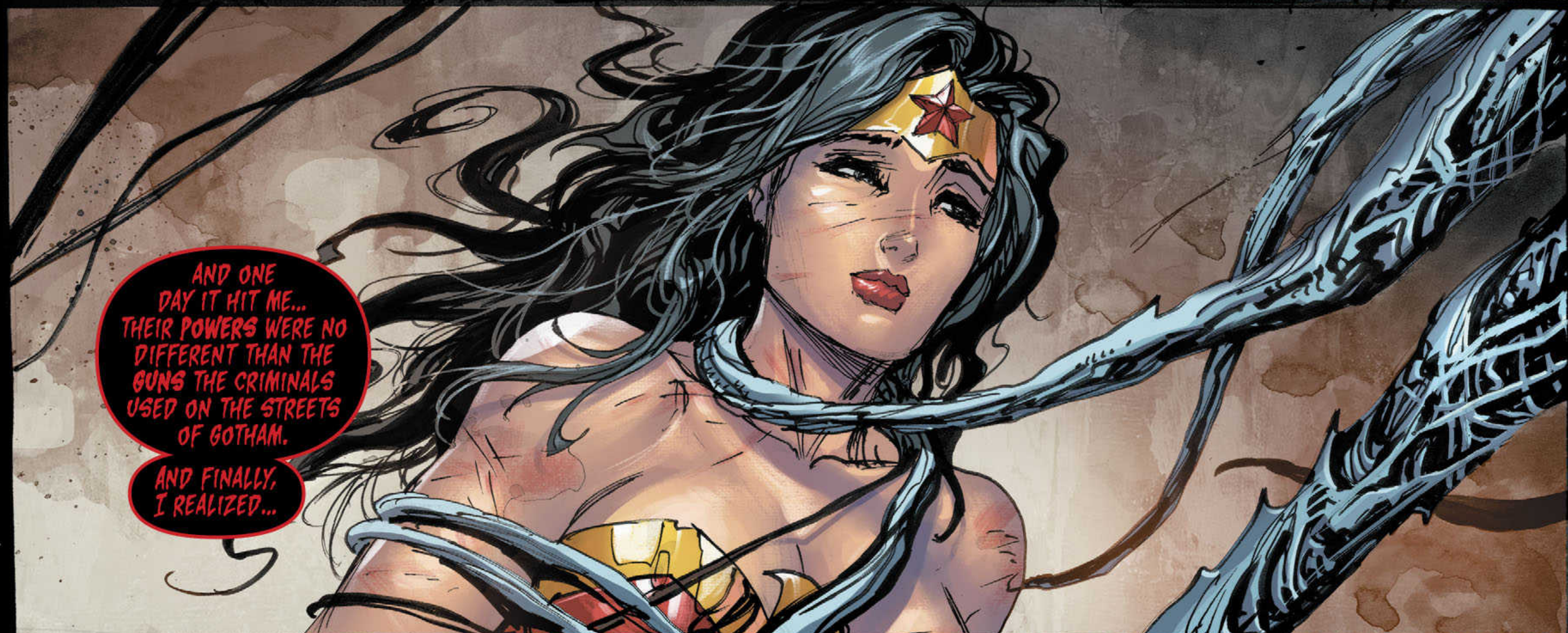
WHEN I
FIRST JOINED
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE I FELT
INTIMIDATED.



I WAS
JUST A MAN
IN BLACK WITH
TOYS AND TRAINING
SURROUNDED
BY GODS.



BUT WITH
EACH ADVENTURE
WE SHARED I SAW
THEIR FLAWS.



AND ONE
DAY IT HIT ME...
THEIR POWERS WERE NO
DIFFERENT THAN THE
GUNS THE CRIMINALS
USED ON THE STREETS
OF GOTHAM.

AND FINALLY,
I REALIZED...

BATS OUT OF HELL

FINALE

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON **WRITER**
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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.
SPECIAL THANKS TO SCOTT SNYDER,
GREG CAPULLO & JAMESTYNION IV

THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE ARE
A SUPERSTITIOUS AND
COWARDLY LOT!

HAHAHA
HAHA

I'VE NEVER HEARD
BATMAN LAUGH BEFORE.

AND EVEN THOUGH
I KNOW THIS ISN'T
MY BRUCE, IT'S
TERRIFYING TO HEAR.

LAUGHING AT
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE'S
LOSSES...

PING

...AS HE FLOODS MY MOTHER BOX WITH ENERGY FROM THE DARK MULTIVERSE HE CRAWLED OUT OF. HE SAID HE WANTS TO EXTRACT SOMETHING CALLED THE ELEMENT X FROM INSIDE OF ME.

ARRRGGHHH

TO GET IT, HE'S RUSHING ME WITH VISIONS OF ALL THE WAYS I COULD LOSE.

MY NIGHTMARES. OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

THERE'S NO WAY TO GET MY TEAM BACK TOGETHER NOW... WE'VE LOST IT ALL.

THE PAIN IS UNRELENTING.

PING

IT'S LIKE SOME TWISTED VERSION OF WHEN I WOULD STUDY GAME TAPE TO SEE WHY WE LOST...

PING PING

BUT THIS ISN'T A GAME. AND WE SURE AS HELL CAN'T WIN.

PING

PING
PING
PING

PING
PING
PING

PING
YOU
PING

PING
YOU
PING
ARE
PING

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR IT TO STOP...

YOU ARE READY,
VICTOR STONE.

YOU AND I HAVE BEEN CONNECTED FOR A LONG TIME, VICTOR STONE. AND IT APPEARS YOU ARE READY TO ACCESS YOUR TRUE PROGRAMMING.

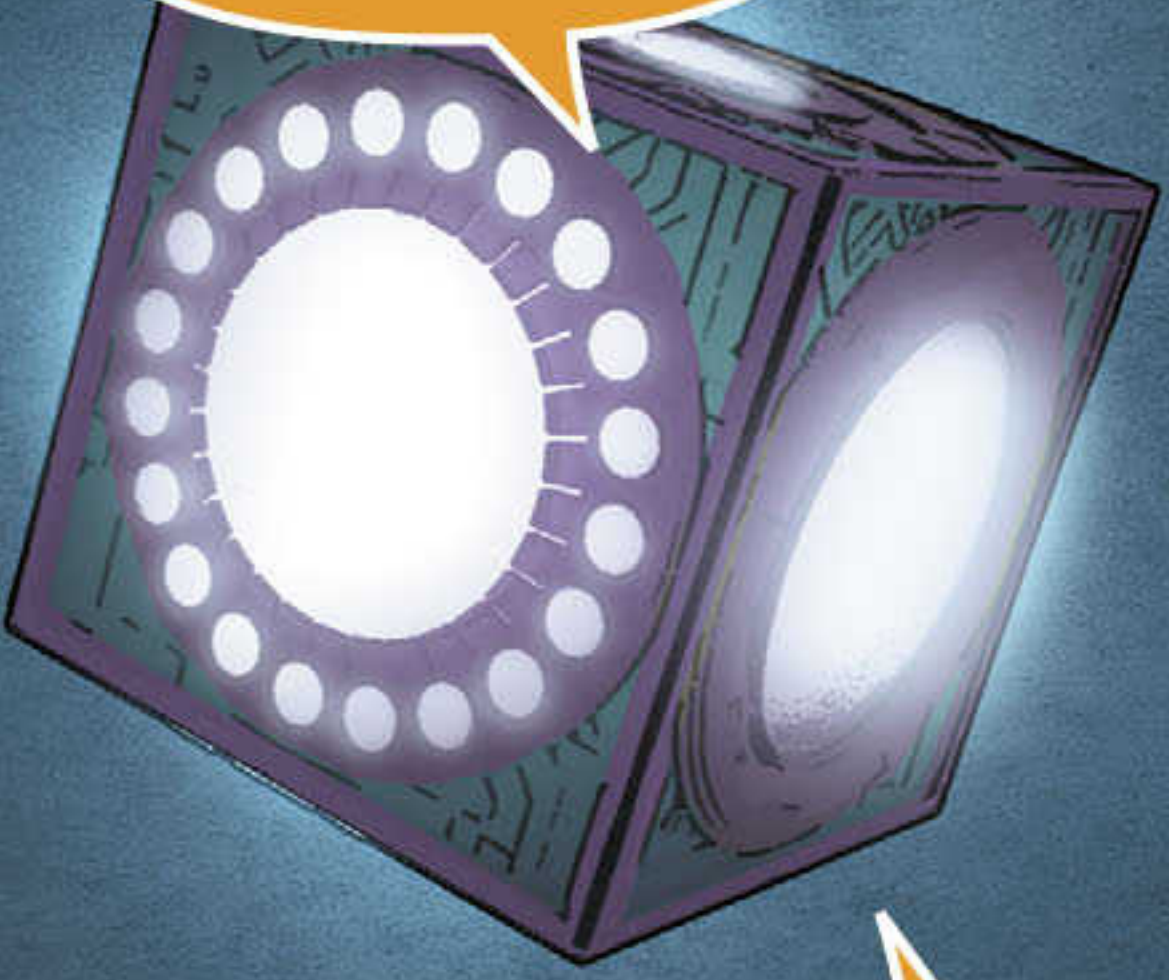
YOU'RE MY MOTHER BOX. THIS IS ALL INSIDE MY HEAD?

THAT IS CORRECT.



AND AT MY HEART IS ELEMENT X.

THE PUREST, BRIGHTEST METAL IN THE COSMOS, FROM THE WORLD FORGE ITSELF. TEEMING WITH POSSIBILITY.



IF YOU ALLOW YOURSELF TO BECOME ONE WITH ME, IT CAN BE YOURS.

ALL WHO HAVE CONNECTED TO A MOTHER BOX IN THE PAST HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR PERFECT FORM, AND YET YOU HAVE ALWAYS RESISTED.

YOU ARE A GLITCH IN THE UNIVERSE. BUT IT IS FINALLY TIME.



WHY ME?



WAIT... THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE ME?

MANY.



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WERE TO GIVE IN?

I WILL DELETE YOUR ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING FROM BEFORE YOU BONDED WITH THE MOTHER BOX AND TAKE OVER TO DEFEAT THE DARK KNIGHTS.

"ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING"? YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ME. YOU'D ERASE ME TO WIN...



DAMN...

YOU ARE NOT NECESSARY. THE MULTIVERSE DOES NOT NEED YOU TO SAVE IT. YOU KNOW THIS.

LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT IS AT STAKE.



PING

FIFTY-TWO GLITTERING UNIVERSES WITH COUNTLESS LIFEFORMS. THEIRS IS THE TRUE POWER OF THE MOTHERBOX, AND IF YOU DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE PLUGGED INTO IT, THEY WILL ALL BE LOST.

GIVE UP YOUR PAIN, CYBORG.

ALL YOUR DOUBTS. YOUR LOSSES. THEY WILL BE DONE.

YOU WILL GIVE UP YOURSELF AND BECOME ONE WITH THE MULTIVERSE.

ALL IN SERVICE OF STOPPING BARBATOS AND HIS DARK KNIGHTS.

I... CAN SEE IT.

YES. THIS IS YOUR DESTINY. NO MORE FAILURE. ONLY VICTORY.

I'VE FOUGHT... THIS FIGHT FOR... SO LONG. MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE IT'S TIME...

VICTOR... NO... VICTOR... YOU CAN'T!



WHO...
WHO'S THERE?
MOTHER BOX?

NO! BUT
LISTEN TO ME!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH
TIME! MY CONNECTION
TO YOU WON'T LAST
LONG.

YOU
CAN'T GIVE UP,
VICTOR.

I'VE BEEN
WATCHING YOU.
YOU USED TO
FEED OFF
YOUR FAILURES,
BUILD FROM
THEM!

WATCHING ME?
WHO **ARE** YOU? WHY
SHOULD I **TRUST**
YOU?

I DON'T...
GHHH! I JUST
WANT TO **SAVE**
MY **TEAM!**

PLEASE! I'VE
SEEN WHAT'S TRULY
INSIDE YOU.

THE DARK
KNIGHTS WANT
YOU BECAUSE OF
THE MOTHER BOX,
BUT THAT **ISN'T**
WHAT MAKES YOU
SPECIAL.

YOU'RE SPECIAL
BECAUSE OF YOUR
HEART.

THE PART I
ADMIRE. VICTOR,
BELIEVE ME. I'M...
YOUR **FRIEND.**

I AM YOUR
DESTINY, CYBORG.
BE VICTORIOUS.

IT'S NOT
ABOUT ME...
IT'S ABOUT
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE...

IF I CAN
SAVE THEM AS
CYBORG, IF I CAN
BEAT THE DARK
KNIGHTS...

...THEN MAYBE
VICTOR STONE
NEEDS TO TAKE
ONE FOR THE
TEAM.

NO, I'M HERE
WITH **YOU**. YOU
DON'T HAVE TO
FIGHT ALONE!

PING.

VICTOR!

PING!



Follow me. This way, sir.

Follow me. This way, sir.

STRAP THEM TO THE TUNING FORK WITH THE OTHERS.

OUR DESCENT INTO THE DARK MULTIVERSE WILL BE A BIT...BUMPY.

FOLLOW ME.

THIS--
ZZZZTTTTT

...MURDER MACHINE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE ALFRED PROTOCOL?

SOMETHING IS INTERFERING WITH MY CONNECTION.

I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE PICKED THE BATMAN MERGED WITH LEX LUTH--

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOUR CONNECTION"?

HE MEANS YOU FINALLY MADE A MISTAKE. YOU ALL DID. YOU ALWAYS DO WITH ME.

BOOSSSHHH

YOU WANTED MY **ELEMENT X**, SO YOU SHOWED ME MY **FAILURES** ON LOOP.

MOTHER BOX WANTED TO ERASE ME, SO IT TOLD ME THE UNIVERSE **DOESN'T** NEED ME.

YOU ALL TRIED TO WIN BY TELLING ME I'D ALREADY LOST. BUT YOU FORGOT ONE THING.

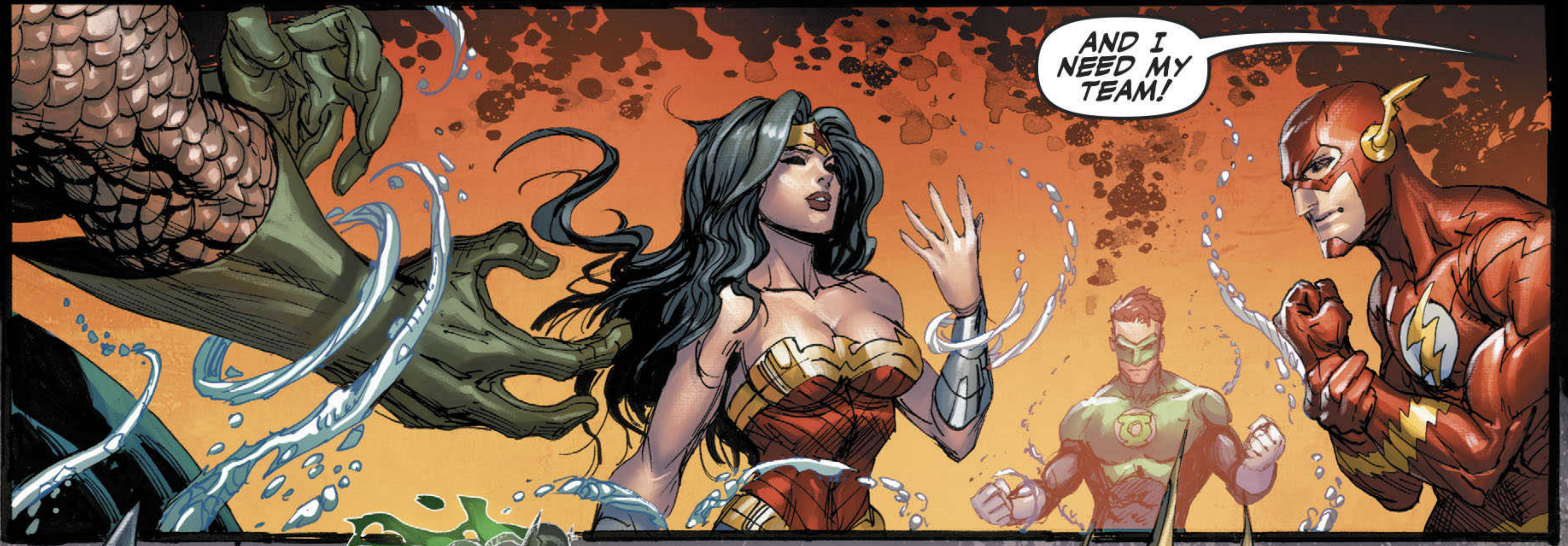
I MAY BE WIRES AND METAL ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT DEEP DOWN...

...I'LL
ALWAYS BE A
VICTOR.

SO NOW YOU
GOTTA DEAL
WITH...

**CYBORG
ONE MILLION,
BABY!**



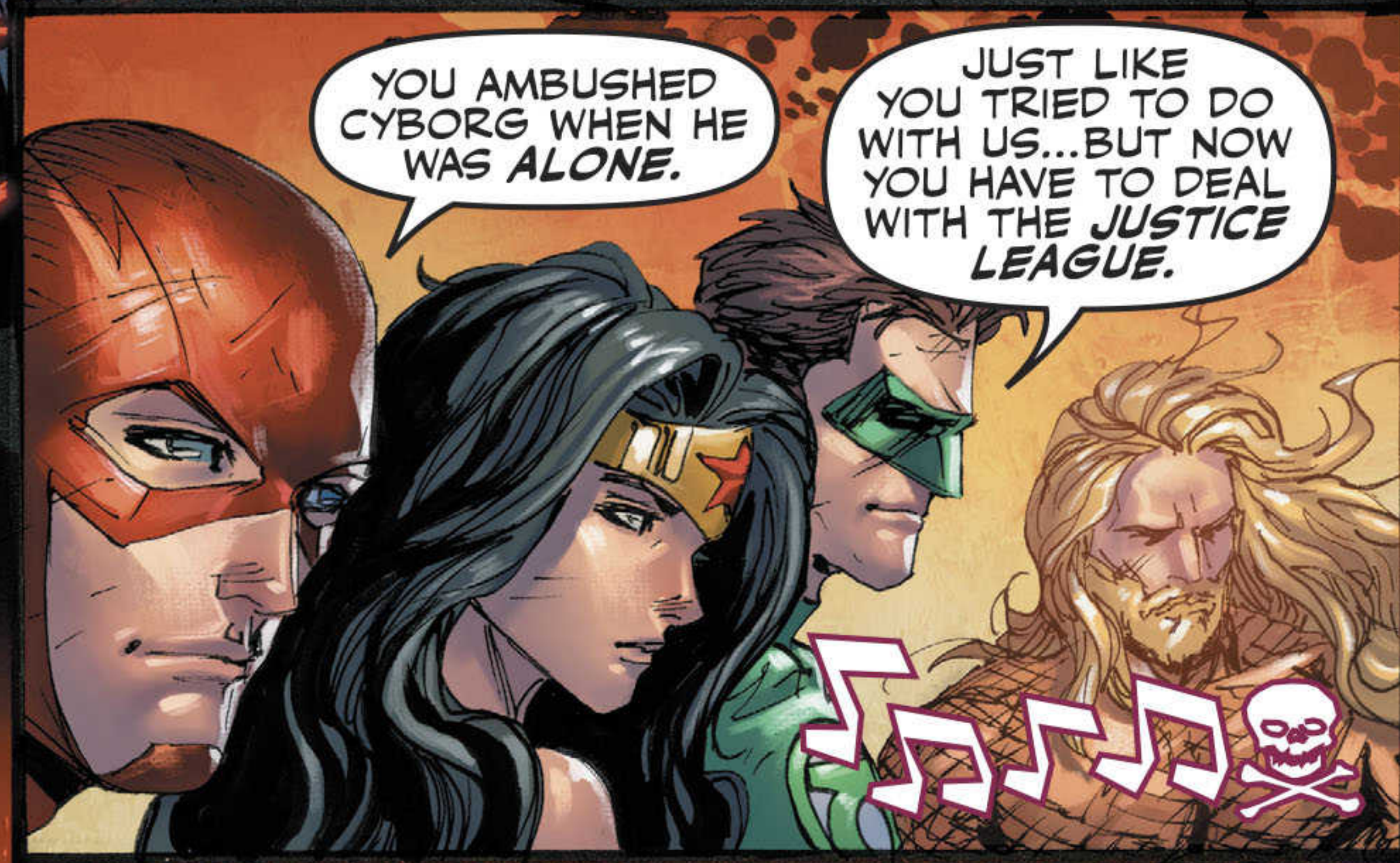


AND I NEED MY TEAM!



CYBORG IS USING HIS MOTHER BOX CONNECTION TO ELEMENT X TO DRAW POWER DIRECTLY FROM THE MULTIVERSE!

SO WHAT?!
WE RIPPED YOUR BODY TO PIECES BEFORE, CYBORG. WE CAN DO IT AGAIN.



YOU AMBUSHED CYBORG WHEN HE WAS ALONE.

JUST LIKE YOU TRIED TO DO WITH US...BUT NOW YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

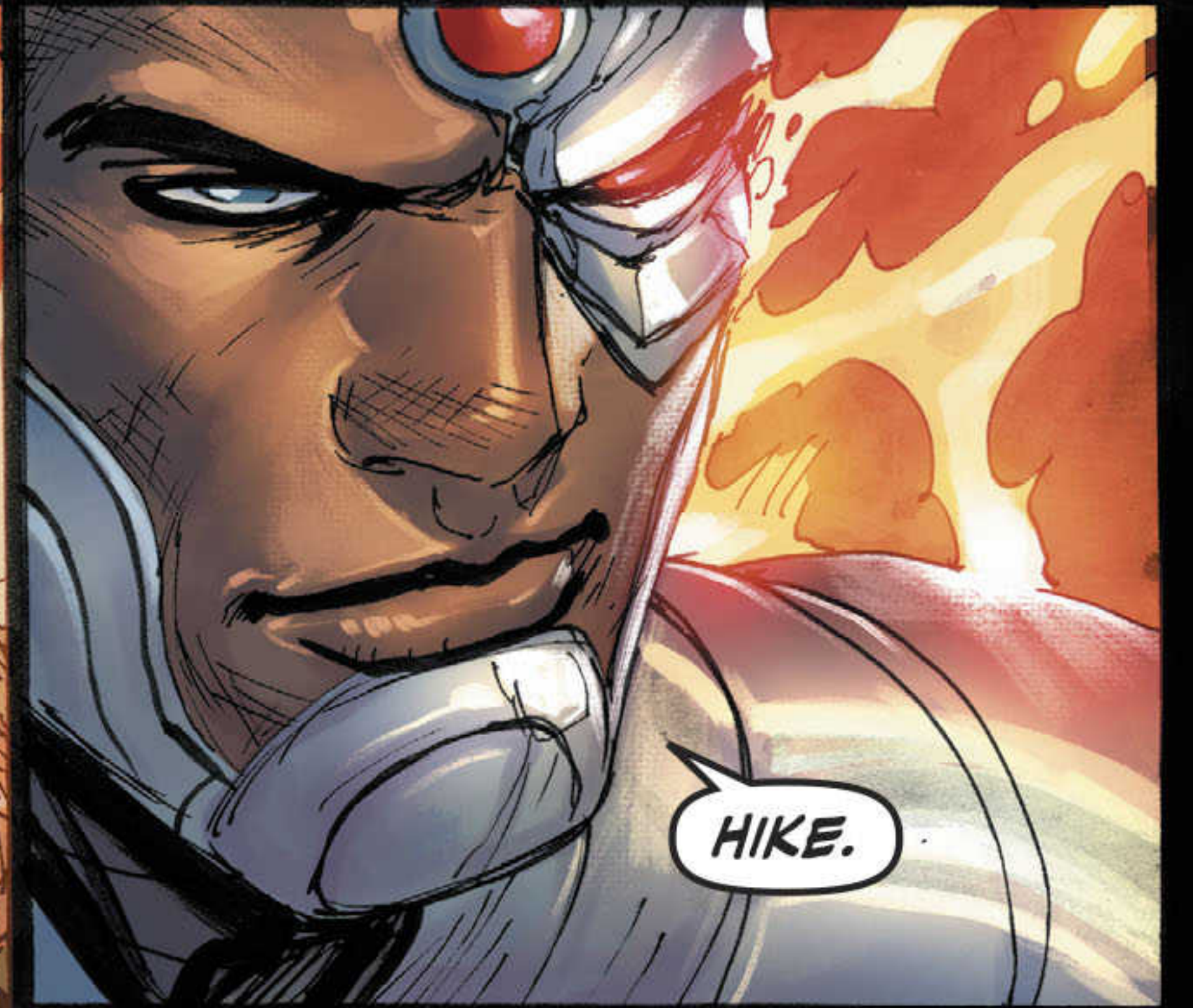


WHAT IS THAT MUSIC?!



I'M BLASTING MY THEME SONG THROUGH MY SPEAKERS.

I'D PLAY IT WHENEVER I WANTED TO GET THE TEAM PUMPED UP. WHEN THE BALL WAS ON THE ONE-YARD LINE...



HIKE.



ON EACH OF OUR
WORLDS IT ONLY TOOK
ONE BATMAN TO KILL THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE!

YOU DON'T
STAND A CHANCE
AGAINST THE NEW
BAT-FAMILY!

MUST BE
NICE TO HAVE
SO MANY FRIENDS,
CYBORG. I NEVER
HAD ANY...

...CAN WE
ALL PLAY
A GAME IN
THE DARK
TOGETHER?

PRO TIP,
DAWNBREAKER!
HAVING THE
RIGHT PLAYERS
ON THE FIELD
IS GREAT,
BUT...

...HAVING A
STRONG BENCH
IS KEY!

CYBORG! MAN,
YOU SURE KNOW
HOW TO MAKE AN
ENTRANCE.

AND NOW
WE MUST
HASTEN AN
EXIT OR WE'LL
BE TRAPPED
AGAIN.

WAIT, NO.
I CAN'T LEAVE
YET. I HAVE TO
FIND...

...RAVEN!

IS IT...YOU?
I...DID YOU
HEAR ME?

PLEASE...
THE BATMAN
WHO LAUGHS,
HE WANTS MY
DARKNESS. I
ALMOST LET IT
OUT, BUT THEN
I *FELT* YOUR
STRENGTH.
FELT HOW YOU
FOUGHT TO
STAY YOU.

TELL ME YOU
DIDN'T GIVE IN.
BECAUSE IF YOU
DID, VICTOR...

...THEN
I HAVE NO
HOPE.

YOU'RE A LOT
STRONGER THAN
YOU *THINK* YOU
ARE, RAVEN.

BUT LET'S
GET YOU OUT OF
HERE ANYWAY...



...BECAUSE
CLEARLY YOU AND
I ARE **STRONGER
TOGETHER.**



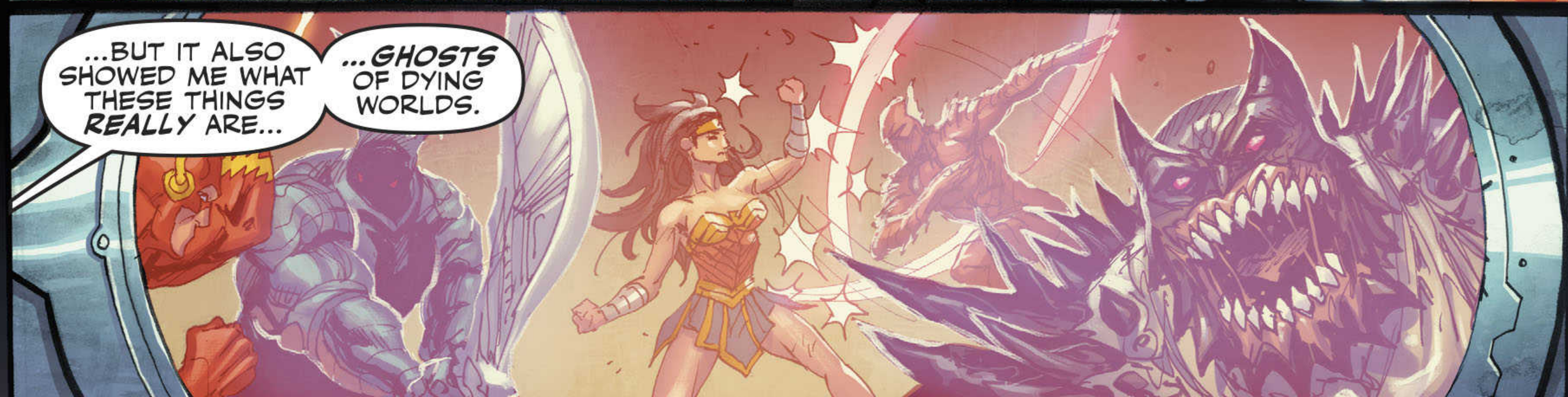
ALL RIGHT,
ARE WE **DONE
WITH THE
HUGS?!**

FOR ONCE,
I **AGREE** WITH
LANTERN.



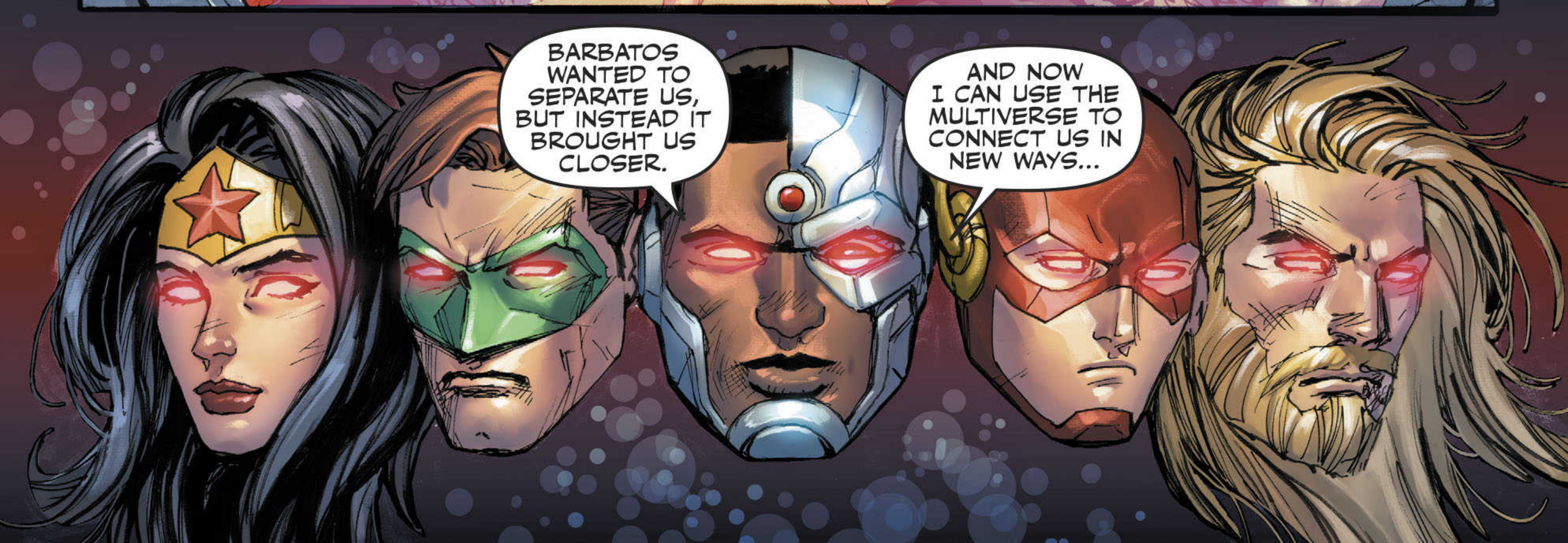
YOUR
TEAM NEEDS
YOU. GO.

STAY CLOSE
TO US. MY NEW
MULTIVERSE
UPGRADE SHOWED
ME IT WAS YOU
TALKING TO
ME...



...BUT IT ALSO
SHOWED ME WHAT
THESE THINGS
REALLY ARE...

...**GHOSTS**
OF DYING
WORLDS.



BARBATOS
WANTED TO
SEPARATE US,
BUT INSTEAD IT
BROUGHT US
CLOSER.

AND NOW
I CAN USE THE
MULTIVERSE TO
CONNECT US IN
NEW WAYS...



AND I'M GONNA SHOW YOU *WHY* THESE BATMEN CHOSE TO BECOME MONSTERS.

WE WERE *WRONG*. THEY ARE NOT JUST BATMAN'S FEARS...

...THEY ARE HIS *REGRETS*.

THE DARK KNIGHTS ARE STILL BRUCE. AND BRUCE CAN BE DEFEATED.

BARBATOS PROMISED YOUR WORLDS BACK IF YOU HELPED THIS ONE FALL, IS THAT IT?

THE BATMAN I KNOW WAS SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING BACK WHAT YOU *LOST*.



AND BRUCE? YOU *REALLY* NEED TO SEE A DENTIST.



YOU TELLING ME THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO SAVE YOUR WORLD?

PERHAPS IT'S TIME OUR MASTER MAKES THE SALES PITCH HIMSELF.



ALL ROADS
LEAD TO
DARKNESS.

THEN
WE'RE TAKING
A DETOUR.

BOOM

YOU TOLD ME
YOU PLANNED
FOR EVERY
SCENARIO.

CYBORG'S
TRANSFORMATION
BRINGS AN
UNKNOWN
INTO PLAY.

THESE JUSTICE
LEAGUERS AREN'T ALL THAT
DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES I
CALLED FRIENDS... AND AS LONG
AS WE STILL HOLD THE TEEN
TITANS AND TASK FORCE X
CAPTIVE...

"...THEY'LL BE BACK."

WHERE ARE WE?

THIS IS THE **HYPERTIME**. IT'S A WEB OF TIME STREAMS OUTSIDE THE MULTIVERSE. I'VE ONLY RACED ALONG ITS BORDERS AND NEVER SEEN IT FROM THIS ANGLE...

CYBORG, HOW DID YOU--?

THE MULTIVERSE LED US **HERE**... BUT WE ONLY HAVE A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE THE DARK KNIGHTS BEGIN THEIR **HUNT** FOR US--GHHH.

VICTOR?

I'M **SORRY**, RAVEN. I'M STILL ME, BUT I...I HAD TO GIVE IN PARTIALLY TO THE MOTHER BOX IN ORDER TO GAIN ACCESS TO WHAT WE NEED...

NOW IT'S **RACING** ME FOR CONTROL.

THIS NEW POWER IS SO **STRONG**, IT'S HARD NOT TO GET LOST IN IT...

YOU **WON'T**. BARBATOS BELIEVED YOU'D SEE YOUR LOSSES AND SHUT DOWN...

BUT BEING AFRAID TO LOSE IS **NORMAL**. LEARNING FROM THOSE LOSSES IS A VERY **HUMAN** ACT...AND YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT LONG BEFORE YOU BECAME CYBORG.

IT'S WHAT BARBATOS DIDN'T FACTOR IN WHEN IT TOOK YOU--

HEY, VIC!

YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU SURE HAD THOSE
WANNABE BATMEN
SPOOKED!

NOT BAD
FOR A TEST
RIDE IN THE
NEW YOU!

THEY
UNDERESTIMATED
YOU, MY FRIEND.

AND THEY
WON'T DO IT AGAIN,
SO LET'S USE
OUR TIME WISELY.
WE MUST GET
BACK--

HANG
ON, WONDER
WOMAN.

BEFORE I
BECAME CYBORG,
I LOVED BEING A
PLAYER...BUT I SEE
NOW IT WASN'T MY
TRUE CALLING.

I'M MEANT TO
BE A *COACH*.

AND GOOD
COACHES ALWAYS
KNOW WHEN TO
ASK FOR *HELP*...

ME?
VICTOR,
I CAN'T
EVEN...

YES, YOU
CAN. AND IF
WE'RE GOING
TO FINISH THIS,
WE *NEED*
YOU.

WE'RE ONLY
AT HALFTIME,
FOLKS.

FLASH,
I NEED YOU
AND RAVEN
TO COME
WITH ME.

I'M ALL
YOURS,
BUDDY.
WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
IN MIND?

NOW THAT
I'M PLUGGED IN
TO THE MULTIVERSE,
I *KNOW* WE NEED
THE NTH METAL MORE
THAN EVER, BECAUSE
WITHOUT IT...
BARBATOS IS
GONNA WIN.

A HAIL
MARY PASS.

WE'RE GOING
TO *HACK* THE
MULTIVERSE.

"EVEN ON THIS WORLD,
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE
NEEDS A BATMAN..."

BOOM



... TO HELP
THEM FIND HOPE
IN THE DARKNESS.
TO KNOW THEY
CAN WIN.

I'M GLAD I
COULD BE THAT BATMAN
FOR THEM TODAY. THEY
REALLY BELIEVE THEY
HAVE A CHANCE...

AND NOW THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE ARE
UNKNOWNLY SPREADING
YOUR DARKNESS ACROSS
THE GALAXY!

SHOULDN'T
THEY KNOW BY
NOW...

... ALL ROADS
LEAD BACK TO
BARBATOS...

TO BE CONTINUED IN METAL#4